



Overview of Recreation Planning and Review of the Planning Process

Presentation to D-E NCA Advisory Council
May 4, 2011
Delta Performing Arts Center
Delta, CO



Assumption of BLM recreation planners:

People recreate because recreation leads to “beneficial outcomes”



Individuals

Community



Environment



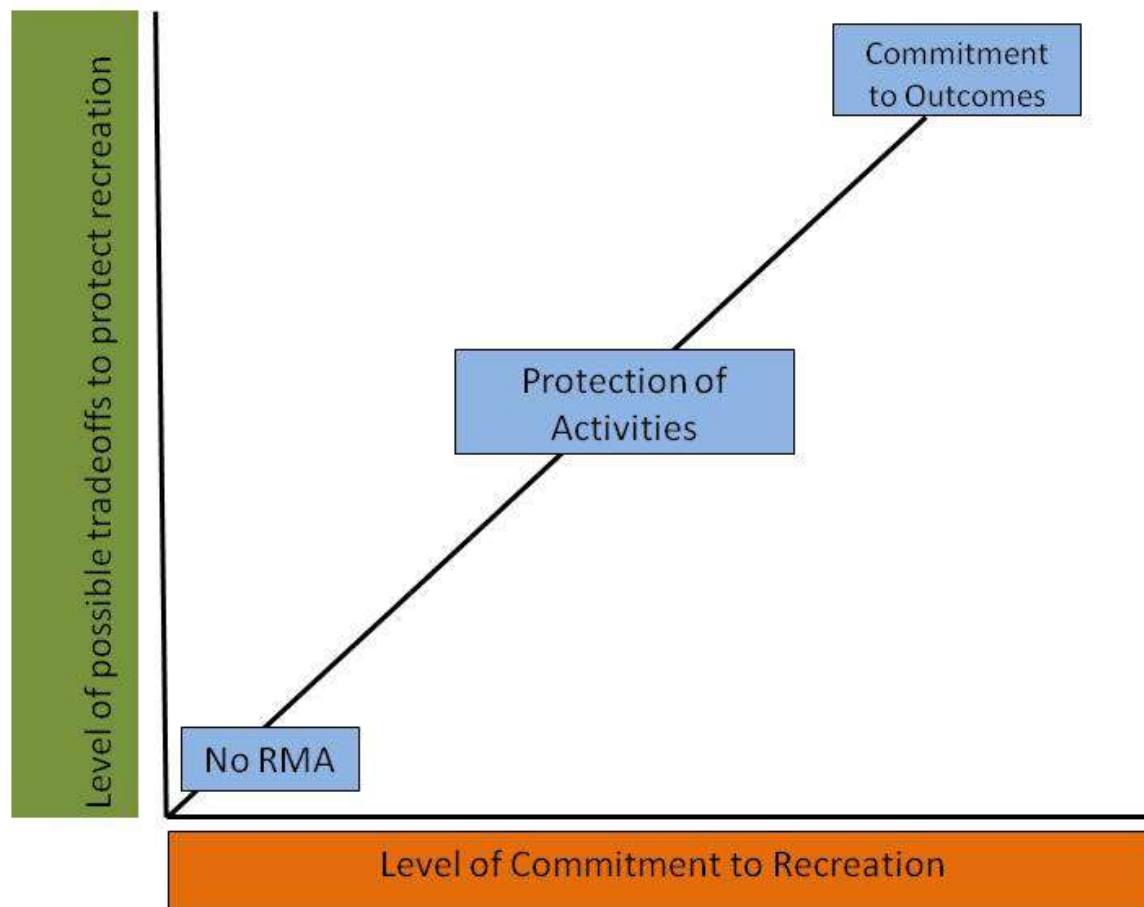


What can the BLM do to create/influence beneficial outcomes?

- Provide opportunities for the public to recreate (*i.e. we can provide access*)
- Manage public lands so as to minimize conflicts between different activities and uses (*i.e. we can decide the types of activities that can occur where and when*)
- Manage public lands for public safety and land health (*i.e. we can design sustainable trails, inform the public of hazards*)
- Manage for and/or protect a particular setting (*i.e. we can build facilities, establish a permit program*)
- Protect a specific type of beneficial outcome (*i.e. we can restrict other uses that interfere with this outcome*)



What can the BLM do to create/influence beneficial outcomes?



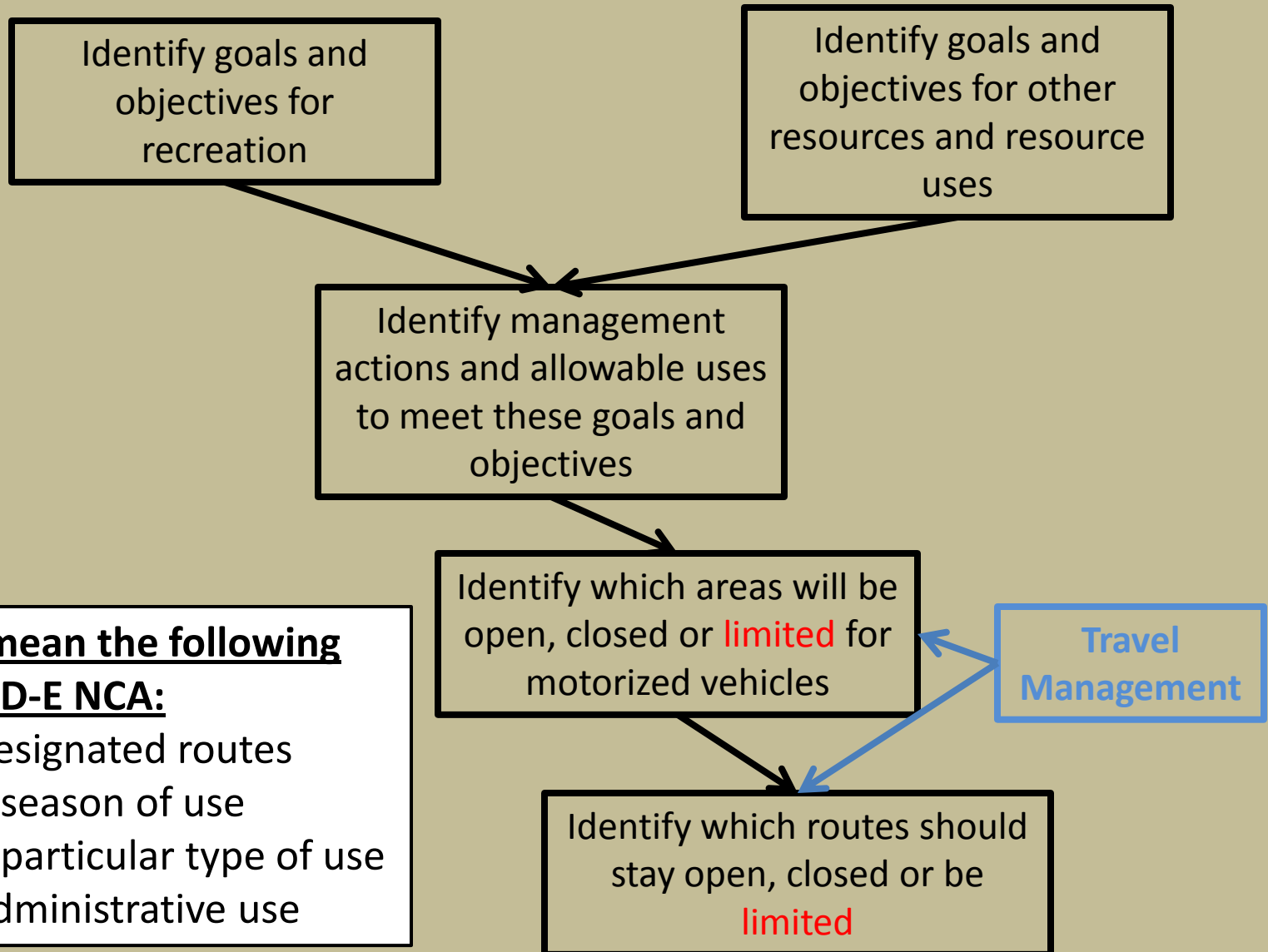


What tradeoffs exist from recreation?





Timeline for recreation planning and travel management decisions



Limited can mean the following things in the D-E NCA:

- Limited to designated routes
- Limited to a season of use
- Limited to a particular type of use
- Limited to administrative use



PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Public Scoping

→ Ended October 1, 2010

Analyze the
Management Situation

→ Through March 2011

Develop RMP Alternatives

We are here now

→ Approx. October 2011

Environmental Effects Analysis

→ Approx. January 2012

Identify preferred alternative

→ Approx. February 2012

Draft RMP/EIS (Document) Issued

→ Approx. August 2012

Public Comment

→ August 2012-November
2012

Final RMP/EIS
(Document) Issued

→ Approx. January 2013

Protest Period

→ Approx. January 2013-
March 2013

Decision

→ Approx. May 2013





PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Develop RMP Alternatives

Identify goals and
objectives under each
alternative

Identify management
actions and allowable uses
under each alternative

Travel Management decisions
under each alternative

Environmental Effects
Analysis

Identify preferred
alternative

February 2011-
October 2011

July 2011-August
2011

October 2011-
January 2012

January 2012-
February 2012



Requirements for Alternatives

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 mandates federal agencies to consider the impacts of its decisions, including RMPs
- To do so, federal agencies typically consider alternatives to proposed actions, including RMPs, when there are issues to be resolved and different means of resolving them
 - Must look at the No-Action alternative
 - Must consider a reasonable range of alternatives (e.g., several points along the continuum of possible options)
- The BLM uses the input of the public, other agencies and BLM staff to identify reasonable alternatives

What is a reasonable alternative?

- A reasonable alternative should be feasible from an economic, logistical, social and environmental perspective.
- Must meet legal requirements of the BLM, including the Omnibus Act that created the NCA



Range of Alternatives vs. Preferred Alternative

Options for the Advisory Council to Provide Input on Alternative Development

- Provide the BLM with criteria to use to establish a full range of alternatives (*for example, the BLM should consider an alternative that is more protective of cultural resources*)
- Provide the BLM with specific actions or allowable uses that should be considered (*for example, the BLM should consider an alternative under which target shooting is banned in the NCA*)

In both cases, this does not mean that either recommendation will become the preferred alternative, but rather that it will be considered in the RMP impacts analysis.

Later on, the advisory council could provide input regarding the selection of a preferred alternative.